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# OUR GERANIUMS

by

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The ordinary Geraniums have shown such an increase in popularity in recent years, and the information about them has been of such meager character that we have felt a need for information on this increasingly popular subject. We are recognized as one of the largest growers of these garden beauties on the Pacific Coast and take great pleasure in submitting the following information for your enjoyment and enlightenment.

The original habitat of the Zonal Geraniums, or botanically *Pelargonium hortorum*, *P. inquinans* and *P. zonale*, was in South Africa. The climatic conditions of their native habitat are somewhat similar both in rainfall and sunshine to that experienced in Berkeley and other localities in northern California.

There is no other plant that requires less maintenance care, less fertilizer and less water than the Geranium. There is absolutely no other plant which will glorify your garden with beautiful flowers, ranging in color from the purest white to the deepest dark purple shades for a longer period of continued bloom than the Geranium. In San Francisco we know of instances where the old favorite, Paul Crampel, has been growing for upwards of twenty years. With one pruning a year to remove the old dead

wood and hard growths, it has always given prolifically of its great scarlet heads of flowers. Never has it been affected by the heavy frosts which periodically touch the vicinity.

To enjoy the full benefit of these glories of the garden, make it a point to obtain sturdy, stocky plants which do not have too long a space between the leaf joints. Next, see that the soil in which they are to be planted has been well dug or tilled, and that a good layer of steam bone meal is worked thoroughly in during the digging process. Prepared fertilizers with a heavy nitrogen content and organic fertilizers such as cow manure, etc., are best dispensed with. In very sandy or gravelly soil, however, it is sometimes good practice to incorporate some pulverized German or Swedish Peat to insure sufficient humus during the hot, dry weather.

When planting out, the new plants should be placed half an inch deeper in the soil than they were in their original container. See that the root ball is not broken during the process of transplanting. Because of this damage, it is better to obtain plants grown in pots rather than tin cans. Work the soil thoroughly around the previous root ball and then apply water freely so that the surrounding soil is flooded.

**PROPAGATION.** You need have no fear that you are going to run out of plants of your favorite variety if when you prune back in the spring, you leave your cuttings out to dry for four or five days. Then cut in sections at every third joint and place firmly in sandy soil, watering in well.

